

SECTION 5. NOISE5-1

5.A DEVELOPMENTS PRODUCING A MINOR NOISE IMPACT.....5-1

APPENDICES

**APPENDIX 5-1: AUDIBLE NOISE IMPACT OF PROPOSED 345 KV TRANSMISSION
LINE**

SECTION 5. NOISE

5.A Developments Producing a Minor Noise Impact

The proposed Northeast Reliability Interconnect (NRI) will produce a minor noise impact during construction and operation.

Construction noise impacts resulting from clearing and construction vehicles and equipment are estimated to range between 50 and 60 decibels of the A-weighted scale (dBA), depending on the phase of construction occurring. This noise will be short-term in nature, and given the short period of time that transmission line construction takes in a given area, will be very limited to any potential receptor. Noise from increased local construction traffic and construction equipment will not result in adverse long-term impacts on humans or wildlife. Activity and noise associated with tree clearing, loading and trucking will be consistent with ongoing forest harvesting operations which are common along most of the route. Furthermore, construction will occur between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. or daylight hours, whichever is longer, and therefore noise associated with construction is exempt from regulation under the Site Law [38 MRSA Section 484(3)(A)].

If blasting is required, blasting will occur in the period between sunrise and sundown or in the period between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., whichever is greater. In addition, no routine production blasting will be allowed in the daytime on Sundays. Blasting will not occur more frequently than four times per day, and sound from blasting will not exceed the following limits at any protected location:

<u>Number of Blasts Per Day</u>	<u>Sound Level Limit</u>
1	129 dBL
2	126 dBL
3	124 dBL
4	123 dBL

Blast sound will be measured as peak linear sound level (dBL) with linear response down to 5 Hertz (Hz). See Section 20 of this application for more information on blasting.

Audible long-term noise associated with the operation of the transmission line and the substations will not adversely impact humans or wildlife. The transmission line has been sited to avoid residential areas and high public use areas where possible and is generally in an undeveloped and remote location. When near residential areas, the NRI is co-located with an existing 345 kilovolt (kV) transmission line (the Maine Electric Power Company (MEPCO) line). During fair weather, the noise generated by the transmission line will typically be inaudible to a person standing under or near the line with normal hearing. Corona-generated audible noise from the transmission line may be detected immediately under or adjacent to the line during periods of rain, heavy fog, or high humidity when the voltage of the line is high. However, there will be no significant noise from the operation of the transmission line beyond the edge of the right-of-way or in proximity to the substations, as shown in the report entitled *Audible Noise Impact of Proposed 345 kV Transmission Line* provided in Appendix 5-1. Furthermore, there are no vegetative buffers at the Orrington Substation that will be cut as a result of constructing the transmission line or the modifications to the substation.

APPENDIX 5-1
AUDIBLE NOISE IMPACT OF PROPOSED
345 KV TRANSMISSION LINE